

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A probe, comprising:

a probe body having a body longitudinal axis and a shoulder; and

microstylets embedded in the probe body and having a longitudinal axis aligned along the body longitudinal axis, wherein one end of one of the microstylet [a microstylet] is integrally bound to the probe body and another end mechanically coupled to and extending from the shoulder and having a microstylet longitudinal axis coincident the body longitudinal axis, [the] each of the microstylets microstylet having a cross section substantially smaller than a cross section of the probe body.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the microstylets ~~microstylet~~ comprises an acerate microparticle selected from the group consisting of:

a carbon whisker;

a metal needle; and

a diamond.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the microstylets are
~~carbon nanotube~~ is a single-walled carbon nanotubes ~~nanotube~~ or a multi-walled carbon ~~nanotube~~
nanotubes.

Claim 4 (Original) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the probe body comprises a tube.

Claim 5 (Original) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the probe body comprises a glass
tube.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein a portion of the
specific microstylet resides within the probe body.

Claim 7 (Original) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the shoulder includes a fastigate
shoulder.

Claim 8 (Original) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the probe is a field emitter, a
micromanipulator or a microinjector.

Claims 9-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A probe, comprising:

a probe body having a body longitudinal axis and a shoulder; and

carbon nanotubes embedded in the probe body and each having a longitudinal axis aligned along the body longitudinal axis, wherein one end of [a] one of the carbon [nanotube] nanotubes is [mechanically coupled] integrally bound to the probe body and another end of the carbon nanotube [to and extending] extends outwardly from the shoulder and having a carbon nanotube longitudinal axis coincident the body longitudinal axis, each of the carbon nanotubes nanotube having a cross section substantially smaller than a cross section of the probe body.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The probe as recited in Claim 21 wherein the carbon nanotubes are nanotube is a single-walled carbon nanotubes nanotube or a multi-walled carbon nanotubes nanotube.

Claim 23 (New) The probe as recited in Claim 1 wherein the microstylets are spaced apart along the body longitudinal axis.

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-22 in the application. In a response to the Official Action of March 26, 2003, the Applicants elected Claims 1- 8 and 21-22 (Group I) and canceled Claims 9-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. In response to the present Office Action, the Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 6 and 21-22, and added new Claim 23. The amendments to